

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. Media for use in a magnetic tape drive, the media having an identification
2 window segment, the identification window segment having an electromagnetic
3 transmissiveness which varies in a manner chosen to provide a predetermined media or
4 cartridge signature when the media is transported at a selected linear velocity.

1 2. The media of claim 1, wherein the identification window segment is situated
2 between two opaque segments of the media.

1 3. The media of claim 2, wherein one of the two opaque segments of the media
2 is a magnetic recording/reproducing segment for magnetically transducing information.

1 4. The media of claim 3, wherein the magnetic recording/reproducing segment
2 has identification transduced in helical stripes.

1 5. The media of claim 2, wherein one of the two opaque segments of the media
2 is a cleaning segment comprised of material suitable for cleaning a transducing element
3 of a tape drive.

1 6. A magnetic tape drive comprising:
2 a transducing element which transduces information relative to media loaded into
3 the drive;
4 a media transport for transporting the media proximate the transducing element
5 and for imparting a linear velocity to the media;
6 a processor which, upon loading of the media into the tape drive, detects an
7 identification window segment of the media, the identification widow segment having
8 an electromagnetic transmissiveness which varies in a manner chosen to provide a
9 predetermined media or cartridge signature when the media is transported at a selected
10 linear velocity.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the identification window segment is
2 situated between two opaque segments of the media.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein one of the two opaque segments of the
2 media is a magnetic recording/reproducing segment for magnetically transducing
3 information.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the magnetic recording/reproducing
2 segment has identification transduced in helical stripes.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein one of the two opaque segments of the
2 media is a cleaning segment comprised of material suitable for cleaning a transducing
3 element of a tape drive.

11. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the tape drive is a helical scan tape drive.

1 12. A method of operating a magnetic tape drive comprising:
2 upon loading of the media into the tape drive, transporting media along a tape
3 path; and

4 detecting a varying electromagnetic transmissiveness of the media when the
5 media is transported at a selected linear velocity;

6 using the varying electromagnetic transmissiveness of the media as a media or
7 cartridge signature.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the varying electromagnetic
2 transmissiveness of the media occurs in an identification window segment of the media.

1 14. The method of claim 12, further sensing electromagnetic transmissiveness
2 of the identification widow segment and generating a signal related thereto.

1 15. The method of claim 12, further comprising comparing values of a signal
2 indicative of the varying electromagnetic transmissiveness of the media to stored
3 templates to determine the media or cartridge signature.